

1       **In the Claims**

2       Claims 1, 5, 16, 18, 20-29 and 31 are amended.

3       Claims 2 and 17 are canceled without prejudice.

4       Claims 1, 3-16, 18-40 are pending and are listed below:

5  
6       1.     (Currently Amended) A software architecture for a distributed  
7     computing system comprising:

8         an application configured to handle requests submitted by remote devices  
9     over a network; and

10        an application program interface to present functions used by the  
11     application to access network and computing resources of the distributed  
12     computing system, the application program interface comprising various types  
13     related to constructing user interfaces, wherein the various types comprise:

14       classes which represent managed heap allocated data that has reference  
15     assignment semantics;

16       interfaces that define a contract that other types can implement;

17       delegates that are object oriented function pointers;

18       structures that represent static allocated data that has value assignment  
19     semantics; and

20       enumerations which are value types that represent named constants.

21  
22       2.     (Canceled).

23  
24       3.     (Original) A software architecture as recited in claim 1, wherein  
25     the distributed computing system comprises client devices and server devices that

1 handle requests from the client devices, the remote devices comprising at least  
2 one client device.

3  
4 4. (Original) A software architecture as recited in claim 1, wherein  
5 the distributed computing system comprises client devices and server devices that  
6 handle requests from the client devices, the remote devices comprising at least  
7 one server device that is configured as a Web server.

8  
9 5. (Currently Amended) An application program interface embodied  
10 on one or more computer readable media, comprising: multiple types related to  
11 constructing user interfaces, the types comprising classes which represent  
12 managed heap allocated data that has reference assignment semantics, interfaces  
13 that define a contract that other types can implement, delegates that are object  
14 oriented function pointers, structures that represent static allocated data that has  
15 value assignment semantics and enumerations which are value types that  
16 represent named constants.

17  
18 6. (Original) An application program interface as recited in claim 5,  
19 wherein the classes comprise a forms class that represents a window or a dialog  
20 box that makes up an application's user interface.

21  
22 7. (Original) An application program interface as recited in claim 6,  
23 wherein the forms class has multiple members comprising one or more of: public  
24 static properties, public static methods, public instance constructors, public  
25

1 instance methods, public instance properties, public instance events, protected  
2 instance properties, and protected instance methods.

3  
4 8. (Original) An application program interface as recited in claim 5,  
5 wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises a button control interface  
6 that allows a control to act like a button on a form.

7  
8 9. (Original) An application program interface as recited in claim 5,  
9 wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises a container control interface  
10 that provides functionality for a control to act as a parent for other controls.

11  
12 10. (Original) An application program interface as recited in claim 5,  
13 wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises an editing notification  
14 interface.

15  
16 11. (Original) An application program interface as recited in claim 5,  
17 wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises a data object interface that  
18 provides a format independent mechanism for transferring data.

19  
20 12. (Original) An application program interface as recited in claim 5,  
21 wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises a feature support interface  
22 that specifies a standard interface for retrieving feature information from a current  
23 system.

1           13. (Original) An application program interface as recited in claim 5,  
2 wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises a message filter interface.

3  
4           14. (Original) An application program interface as recited in claim 5,  
5 wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises a handle-exposing interface  
6 to expose handles.

7  
8           15. (Original) An application program interface as recited in claim 5,  
9 wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises one or more of the  
10 following interfaces:

11           a button control interface that allows a control to act like a button on a  
12 form;

13           a container control interface that provides functionality for a control to act  
14 as a parent for other controls;

15           an editing notification interface;

16           a data object interface that provides a format independent mechanism for  
17 transferring data;

18           a feature support interface that specifies a standard interface for retrieving  
19 feature information from a current system;

20           a message filter interface; and

21           a handle-exposing interface to expose handles.

22  
23           16. (Currently Amended) A distributed computer software architecture,  
24 comprising:

one or more applications configured to be executed on one or more computing devices, the applications handling requests submitted from remote computing devices;

a networking platform to support the one or more applications; and

an application programming interface to interface the one or more applications with the networking platform, the application programming interface comprising various types related to constructing user interfaces, wherein the various types comprise:

classes which represent managed heap allocated data that has reference assignment semantics;

interfaces that define a contract that other types can implement;

delegates that are object oriented function pointers;

structures that represent static allocated data that has value assignment semantics; and

enumerations which are value types that represent named constants.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) A distributed computer software architecture as recited in claim 47 16, wherein the classes comprises a forms class that represents a window or a dialog box that makes up an application's user interface.

19. (Original) A distributed computer software architecture as recited in claim 18, wherein the forms class has multiple members comprising one or more of: public static properties, public static methods, public instance

1 constructors, public instance methods, public instance properties, public instance  
2 events, protected instance properties, and protected instance methods.

3  
4 20. (Currently Amended) A distributed computer software architecture  
5 as recited in claim 17 16, wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises a  
6 button control interface that allows a control to act like a button on a form.

7  
8 21. (Currently Amended) A distributed computer software architecture  
9 as recited in claim 17 16, wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises a  
10 container control interface that provides functionality for a control to act as a  
11 parent for other controls.

12  
13 22. (Currently Amended) A distributed computer software architecture  
14 as recited in claim 17 16, wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises an  
15 editing notification interface.

16  
17 23. (Currently Amended) A distributed computer software architecture  
18 as recited in claim 17 16, wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises a  
19 data object interface that provides a format independent mechanism for  
20 transferring data.

21  
22 24. (Currently Amended) A distributed computer software architecture  
23 as recited in claim 17 16, wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises a  
24 feature support interface that specifies a standard interface for retrieving feature  
25 information from a current system.

1  
2 25. (Currently Amended) A distributed computer software architecture  
3 as recited in claim 17 16, wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises a  
4 message filter interface.

5  
6 26. (Currently Amended) A distributed computer software architecture  
7 as recited in claim 17 16, wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises a  
8 handle-exposing interface to expose handles.

9  
10 27. (Currently Amended) A distributed computer software architecture  
11 as recited in claim 17 16, wherein the type comprising the interfaces comprises  
12 one or more of the following interfaces:

13 a button control interface that allows a control to act like a button on a  
14 form;

15 a container control interface that provides functionality for a control to act  
16 as a parent for other controls;

17 an editing notification interface;

18 a data object interface that provides a format independent mechanism for  
19 transferring data;

20 a feature support interface that specifies a standard interface for retrieving  
21 feature information from a current system;

22 a message filter interface; and

23 a handle-exposing interface to expose handles.  
24  
25

1           28. (Currently Amended) A computer system including one or more  
2 microprocessors and one or more software programs, the one or more software  
3 programs utilizing an application program interface to request services from an  
4 operating system, the application program interface including separate commands  
5 to request services comprising services related to constructing user interfaces,  
6 wherein the application program interface groups API functions into multiple  
7 namespaces that define a collection of classes which represent managed heap  
8 allocated data that has reference assignment semantics, interfaces that define a  
9 contract that other types can implement, delegates that are object oriented  
10 function pointers, enumerations which are value types that represent named  
11 constants and structures that represent static allocated data that has value  
12 assignment semantics.

13  
14           29. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:  
15 managing network and computing resources for a distributed computing  
16 system; and

17 exposing a set of functions that enable developers to access the network  
18 and computing resources of the distributed computing system, the set of functions  
19 comprising functions to facilitate construction of user interfaces, wherein the  
20 functions are grouped into multiple namespaces that define a collection of classes  
21 which represent managed heap allocated data that has reference assignment  
22 semantics, interfaces that define a contract that other types can implement,  
23 delegates that are object oriented function pointers, enumerations which are value  
24 types that represent named constants and structures that represent static allocated  
25 data that has value assignment semantics.



1  
2 30. (Original) A method as recited in claim 29, further comprising  
3 receiving a request from a remote computing device, the request containing a call  
4 to the set of functions.

5  
6 31. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising creating a namespace  
7 with functions that enable drawing and construction of user interfaces, the name  
8 space defining classes which represent managed heap allocated data that has  
9 reference assignment semantics, interfaces that define a contract that other types  
10 can implement, delegates that are object oriented function pointers, structures that  
11 represent static allocated data that has value assignment semantics, and  
12 enumerations which are value types that represent named constants.

13  
14 32. (Original) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the namespace  
15 defines a forms class that represents a window or a dialog box that makes up an  
16 application's user interface.

17  
18 33. (Original) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein the forms class  
19 has multiple members comprising one or more of: public static properties, public  
20 static methods, public instance constructors, public instance methods, public  
21 instance properties, public instance events, protected instance properties, and  
22 protected instance methods.

1           34. (Original) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the namespace  
2 defines an interface comprising a button control interface that allows a control to  
3 act like a button on a form.

4  
5           35. (Original) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the namespace  
6 defines an interface comprising a container control interface that provides  
7 functionality for a control to act as a parent for other controls.

8  
9           36. (Original) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the namespace  
10 defines an interface comprising an editing notification interface.

11  
12           37. (Original) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the namespace  
13 defines an interface comprising a data object interface that provides a format  
14 independent mechanism for transferring data.

15  
16           38. (Original) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the namespace  
17 defines an interface comprising a feature support interface that specifies a  
18 standard interface for retrieving feature information from a current system.

19  
20           39. (Original) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the namespace  
21 defines an interface comprising a message filter interface.

22  
23           40. (Original) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the namespace  
24 defines an interface comprising a handle-exposing interface to expose handles.  
25